

"No, on the contrary, she was a good kind little soul, but a bitter little laugh—"You are quite right, I found it impossible to remain. Her husband made my life a burden to me. The man persecuted me with his unwelcome attentions, until I could bear it no longer, and was obliged to leave, though heaven alone knew what was to become of me. The only thing that suggested itself to me, was to go to Hongkong, and see if I could find another engagement there. And oh, Marcus, I was feeling so lonely, so sad, so wretched at night, just before you came, I had been looking at the water, and wondering if I would be best to end—"

He laid his hand gently on her mouth. "Hush child," he said, "you don't know what you are saying."

"But Marcus, what was life worth to me? I was a burden to my life."

"And now, Esmé?"

"Ah, now!" She echoed, and there was a world of expression and meaning in those two little words. "But how late it is the last hour has slipped away on winged feet. Good night, I must go."

"Yes," he answered rather wistfully. "I suppose you must, but I feel as if I had to let you go out of my sight. Till to-morrow then, Esmé. Ah, darling, my new found darling, come back, just one more kiss before I let you go."

To-morrow! But not such a day as the lovers had planned out for themselves. They would have had all nature, bright, smiling, plover, rejoicing with them in their happiness. But the day was dark. The sky was leaden, and the water was sullen. A storm seemed imminent; but as they sat together hand in hand, they talked and laughed, and drew a contrasting picture between their own bright outlook, and the troubled time which had fallen upon Dame Nature. Towards evening, however, Marcus began to grow a little uneasy, though he hid his best to hide it from her. She seemed so gay, so careless of any impending danger, so secure in her new-found happiness, that he had not the heart to hint at any trouble.

Next day the weather grew worse. The raging sea ran mountains high, and the foam-crested sea waves seemed to be having a wanton gambol with the ship as she crashed through them. Then, towards noon, they knew the worst, they were in the midst of a typhoon, that dreaded enemy of the China Sea. The rain poured down in torrents, the wind lashed and beat the ship in its relentless fury, and swept the decks, carrying all before it. A d then when night came and shrouded in darkness the horrors of the day, their misery was increased tenfold, for all means of reckoning their whereabouts had gone, and the Captain knew that somewhere in their track lay the Pescadore. Esmé and Marcus were sitting in the saloon in semi-darkness, for the rush of water kept putting out the lights. Her face was very pale, but she was calm and collected, while on all sides above the shrieks of women, terror-struck. Marcus held her close. "My brave little woman," he murmured in her ear, for the noise of the storm made conversation impossible. A terrific crash. A terrible sound of splitting timber, and the poor ship shivered from stem to stern like a reed in a gale.

Then Marcus knew that unless some miracle took place, their doom was sealed. They had struck the P. Pescadore. He seized Esmé's hand in a grip that hurt her.

"Come," he said, "keep up your courage, darling, we must make for the deck, it is our only chance." He helped her through the saloon, which was alive with the cries of terrified passengers, and in the blinding darkness they groped their way up the stairs. They could hardly see anything, but their senses told them that a score of eyes were watching them, and the shouts of the officers and men struggling to make themselves heard above the fury of the gale, fell upon their ears.

Marcus was busy blinding her to him with a piece of rope.

"We may be washed on to the rocks," he said, "it is our only chance." A huge wave thundered over the deck only a few yards from where they were standing. It was a spray of blood and drenched them, and on the wind was borne the cry of the despairing creatures it carried with it into eternity. Marcus felt that the next one would very likely take them with it, and he held her so. She shivered a little, and clung to him, and hid her face upon his breast.

"Oh, Marcus, darling, it is cruel," she whispered, her voice all choked with tears. "We were so happy, happier than I had ever hoped to be in this world. Why must we die? Is there no hope? Has Fate decreed that we shall not live our lives together? But in our death God has been good, and has not separated us—" she put up her hand and pressed his face down to hers—"Kiss me, goodbye, darling, it is so dark I cannot see you, and oh, Marcus, thank God for letting us be together, I had rather thousand times die with you than live my life alone." Another wave struck the ship with a full awful thud. Marcus felt it was their death-knell. His arms closed tightly round her. "Goodbye, my darling—little coming," and then the dense thick volume of water broke over them, and they were swept off into the seething sea.

A CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS AT SINGAPORE.

THE "UNOFFICIALS" RESIGN IN A BODY.

The following report of a constitutional crisis at Singapore will be read with interest, for here in Hongkong we have just as much reason to protest against the Military Extortion as have the raterayers of the "sister colony."

It was understood yesterday afternoon, says the Singapore Free Press of the 4th instant, although not yet a matter of official communication, that the Governor had been made acquainted with the fact, that four Singapore Unofficial Members of Council had resigned their seats in Council as a formal and final protest against the unjust policy laid down in Lord Ripon's despatch upon the Military Contribution. Of these Mr. T. C. Byrard's resignation took the form of declining to accept re-nomination, and the other three members, Mr. Sheppard, Mr. Donaldson, and Mr. Seah Liong Seah, have formally signed their decision to no longer retain office. That such a grave step, (which has evidently not been undertaken without deep consideration) will have the entire support and sympathy of the Colony there can be no question whatever. And the public will anxiously await the time, when it comes in due course, to learn in what terms those gentlemen have taken action. That they have the moral support of the Colony is evidenced

by what we are to-day enabled to state as to the proceedings of the two most important public groups of those holding honorary civil appointments.

The next day, the 5th instant, all the honorary Justices of the Peace, and the members of the Chinese Advisory Board likewise resigned, their action, and that of the Unofficials being commenced upon by the Singapore Free Press as follows:—To-day (5th January) would be premature to comment at any length upon the news of the action taken by the Unofficial Members of Council and the public bodies who have so quickly and spontaneously affirmed their fullest support in their power. The Governor is absent at Penang, and it is presumably only by telegram through the Colonial Secretariat that he has learnt what action has been taken in Singapore to vindicate the Colony's rights and claims for justice. But it is not too early to say on behalf of the public that the Unofficials who have made this final stand in defence of their trust, the Colony officers, with full hands, all approval, honour, esteem, and gratitude. We are in no mood to enquire into the causes that are supposed to have produced hesitation in some quarters before the final decision was taken. It has been taken; and it is now the duty of the public to convince all those gentlemen that they have with them, in their action, the entire moral and material support of the Colony. It is a relief to many anxious hearts among us to see the good old manly English spirit assert itself at last, but not before exhausting every method of obtaining justice through the ordinary channels. The Colony thanks its Unofficials, the Justices of the Peace, and, not least of all, the Chinese gentlemen who hold the important office of membership of the Advisory Board. For they know no distinction of climate or country, and our Chinese friends are as true as any of us to feel that the Colony has not been treated in this matter with the respect or consideration that the barest justice would prescribe. Through these years of struggle our Unofficials have done much in defence of the Colony's claims. Now indeed have they done even better. They may lay aside a more laudable heroic spirit, but in doing so, in the best and highest sense do they carry with them again into private life the permanent distinction of honourable duty honourably done. It is a page in this Colony's history that will reflect nothing but credit upon the men who helped to write it. Again, and again, does the Colony thank them.

SPORT AND ATHLETICS.

(Continued.)

THE BILLIARD CHAMPION'S CAREER.

John Roberts was born at Ardwick on August 15th, 1847, being the son of Mr. John Roberts himself a great player. In his day, Roberts was considered so much the superior of all other players that nobody could be persuaded to accept from him 300 out of 1,000 in a match for money, and his breaks of 200, 300, 400, and 500 were considered quite phenomenal. Indeed, when John Roberts' father was at his best, a break of 100 was uncommon, and Hughes Dutton, Bowles, and Tabby, who ranked next to him, played matches without once reaching these figures in a single effort. In 1860, John Roberts and his son, then a lad of 13, went to London, and the elder left Saville House, Leicester Square, on the site of which now stands the Empire Theatre. The premises were fitted out as a billiard saloon, and all the principal matches of the day, including those of the rival universities, were played there. Master John soon showed he was following his father's footsteps for at 13 he was a handicap at St. James's Hall, in which he defeated the leading players of the day, and the first match for money in which John Roberts took part was against Wm. Cook. It was 1,000 up for 300, and Roberts won by 91. In 1870 Roberts, Jun., challenged Cook for the championship, and was doubtless moved to do this because Cook had just defeated his father for that honour. The meeting was arranged for April 14th, and Roberts gained an easy victory by 478 to 10. He was not destined that he should enjoy the distinction long for Joe Bennett beat him, and Cook avenged himself. The championship was held in turn by Cook, Roberts and Bennett until 1885, when Roberts defeated Cook by 93, and Bennett by 160. Since that date June, 1885, Roberts has remained the unchallenged and undisputed champion of English players. No one has the courage to tackle him under the championship conditions, although Peall is doubtless quite willing to play him at the all-in game, which is, after all as said and done, billiards. The American, Ives, gained a sensational victory over Roberts in a contest with peculiar conditions. But still at the all-out English game and particularly with the monotonous spot stroke barred, no one has ever approached the high level of the present champion.

FRAGMENTARY FACTS CONCERNING THE CHAMPION.

For six months a year at least Roberts plays 3,000 points a day. To this constant practice, so the fact that he does not smoke, and that he limits himself to two "whiskies" daily, he attributes his marvellous power. In playing a match he says that he always looks—not one—but three or four shots ahead, just the same as a chess player does in his moves. John Roberts, if not rich in life very happy and prosperous circumstances. He has always taken care of his money, and that is where most billiard players have failed. He has known what it is to take 1,000 entrance money in five nights, and precious few cueists can say this. The champion has visited India about a dozen times, has been to the Cape twice, to New Zealand twice, to Australia three times, and to America once, besides numerous Continental trips, so that he may honestly be described as a travelling and well informed man. His house in Gloucester Road, Regent's Park, London, is full of trophies given to him and collected in various parts of the world. He is the director and largest shareholder in John Roberts and Co., billiard table manufacturers, of Calcutta, and is probably known to as many Rajahs and Indian potentates and Princesses as any Englishman not in the Oriental diplomatic service, while he is well-known to our own Prince of Wales, who is said to have received many a wrinkle from the champion. He is the proprietor of a successful hotel at Durban, in South Africa, and has quite a penchant for descending silver, diamond, and other mines. His hobby, however, is the collection of engravings and etchings, in which he has a refined and cultivated taste. He is a firm believer in Digby as the player of the future.

THE RISE OF PEALL THE "ALL-IN" CHAMPION.

The only man who has any pretensions to be considered the equal of John Roberts at billiards, and, in simple, without restriction, is W. J. Peall. This little man, who stands 5ft. 11in. to Robert's 5ft. 11in., has done some wonderful things in his time. He contends that the English game of billiards includes the spot-stroke and that no championship can be valid that is not played on an ordinary table and does not include that very paying stroke. In his line that is to say a spot-stroke player, Peall has no equal. He was born in London on the last day of 1854, and began to

play when but 13. That he had a natural aptitude for the game is evident from the fact that after 18 months' practice he made 74 consecutive screw backs. There was a table at his father's hotel, and also a very able marker. When Mr. Peall was at school the marker used to write him letters "full of billiards." When he was not at school young Peall practiced for an hour and a half every day and then developed his passion for "potting the red." Indeed, he was always "fiddling about the spot." After passing his 18th birthday, Peall gave up playing for love, he found him in it form very speedily. After a few months' practice Peall became so expert and so accurate that he could find no amateurs who would meet him. He therefore played in a match at the Aquarium for £100, agreeing that if he won he would transfer the prize to the next man. The authorities deemed that by playing with professionals he had forfeited his amateur status. Peall considered whether he should give up billiards or become a professional cueist, and he resolved, after deep cogitation, in favour of the latter course. And he has never regretted his choice. His first appearance as a professional was made at the Plough Inn, Lewisham, when he played George Collins an exhibition game, and received a fee of three guineas for doing so.

PEALL'S MARVELLOUS FEATS.

Peall has done many notable things. He has made one break of over 3,000, several of about 2,000, a spot-barred of 571, and has scored 1,000 in 44 minutes in 1884, this being the quickest game on record in November, 1886. Peall played G. Collins 15,000 up at the Aquarium, and on the 4th and 5th of that month scored 3,413 in one break. In doing this he made 134 and 449 spot-strokes in succession. A machine could hardly be more precise, and yet he broke down at a comparatively easy hazard. When this break was over the spectators simply yelled themselves hoarse, and Mr. Peall felt an interested spectator, unable to contain himself, sprang towards the smiling little man and wrung his hands with rapture and good fellowship. Mr. Wright, of Wright and Co., the table manufacturers, presented him with a £50 note. Great feat as this was, Peall surpassed it on November 5th and 6th 1890. C. Dawson, Huddersfield, a really splendid young player, who quitted the business of book-making to become a billiardist, had just defeated Peall at the spot-barred game after a most exciting match. Peall had not been defeated for nearly two years. Thereupon he played Dawson an all-in game at the Aquarium, the points being 15,000 up, Dawson to receive one-third of that number as his start. Peall smote his opponent hip and high, making no less than 3,304 in a single break. He runs on the spot, making 91, 150, 123, 372, 120, and 400 successful, without a hazard, and for this he was presented with another £50 and a valuable stopwatch. Dawson never made a stroke for a day and a half. This is the kind of man Peall is.

MAINLY ABOUT PEALL.

Like Roberts, Peall never smokes, but what is more he never drinks, although he is a publican, for he is the proprietor of the White Horse at Brixton, London. His hand is always steady, his eyes bright and clear, his nerves firm, and his temper agreeable. He is associated with Thurston and Co., the makers of the billiard tables for the Royal family, just as John Roberts is always connected with Burroughs and Watts. They do say, and no doubt it is true, that these firms pay these gentlemen "retainers" to play on their tables. And if they do I see no harm in it. Even musical publishers and composers know what it is to pay great vocalists to sing songs which they wish to force on the public. Peall never trains, although he cycles a great deal. He and the old lady who married him this year, when he descended to a safety, while John Roberts always uses a cue of 15 ounces, Peall sticks to one half an ounce lighter. It is an interesting fact that Peall now uses the same cue as that with which he played in his first match with Collins at Lewisham. Mr. Peall has a little daughter, Miss Mabel, who is not yet 11, and can barely reach the table, but she can make breaks of 25 and 30. Peall hopes to see her earn a handsome income as a lady teacher of billiards.—*Bombay Gazette.*

CHILDREN starving to death on account of their inability to digest food will find most marvellous food and remedy in Scott's Emulsion of Pure Cod Liver Oil with Hypophosphites. Very palatable and easily digested. Read the following testimonial:—"I have prescribed 'Scott's Emulsion' in cases of children suffering from wasting and mal-nutrition and can report most favourably of its good effect. It has been in each case taken most readily."—W. PERKINS, M.R.C.S., Medical Superintendent, Butleigh Hospital. Any Chemist can supply it.—Sole Agent for Hongkong and the Empire of China:—Chan A Fook, at Watkins & Co., Hongkong.—*[Adv.]*

Today's Advertisements.

THEATRE ROYAL, CITY HALL.

TO-NIGHT. TO-NIGHT.

HICKS' ORIOLES.

SPECIALITY COMPANY.

A PHENOMENAL SUCCESS.

EVERY ACT REDEMANDED.

A Performance of merit that can only be seen once in a lifetime, not pirated and produced but placed before you by

THE ORIGINAL ARTISTES.

EVERY EVENING AT 9 P.M.

BOX OFFICE AT MESSRS. KELLY & WALSH'S.

SOLDIERS AND SAILORS to Back Seats only Half-price.

MONDAY EVENING, 14th January.

ANTONIO ROMANI.

(SEE DAILY PAPERS.)

Dress Circle and Stalls.....\$8 Admission.....\$1

CHAS. B. HICKS, Manager. Hongkong, 12th January, 1895. [9]

Today's Advertisements.

D'ARC'S BIJOU THEATRE, (NEW PRAYA RECLAMATION).

TO-NIGHT AT 9 P.M.

D'ARC'S FANTOCHES FRANCAISES (MARIONETTES).

ROARS OF LAUGHTER.

THUNDERS OF APPLAUSE.

ENCORES INNUMERABLE.

TO-NIGHT AT 9 P.M.

ALL THE NOVELTIES.

PRICES OF ADMISSION:—

Private Boxes (per seat).....\$2.00

Stalls.....1.50

2nd Class.....1.50

Gallery.....0.50

Children half-price, except to Gallery.

PLAN at MESSRS. KELLY & WALSH'S, LD. Hongkong, 12th January 1895. [72]

ST. JOHN LODGE OF HONGKONG, No. 618, S.C.

A REGULAR MEETING of the above LODGE will be held in the FREEMASONS' HALL, Zealand Street, THIS EVENING, the 12th instant, at 8.30 for 9 o'clock precisely. Visiting Brethren are cordially invited.

Hongkong, 12th January, 1895. [71]

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY AND FOCHOW.

THE Company's Steamship

"HAITAN."

Captain Goddard will be despatched for the above Ports on WEDNESDAY, the 16th instant, at Daylight.

For Freight or Passage, apply to DOUGLAS LAFRAIR & Co., General Managers.

Hongkong, 12th January, 1895. [94]

HONGKONG AMATEUR DRAMATIC CLUB.

PERFORMANCES OF "ROBINSON CRUSOE" will be given on the following Dates at the THEATRE ROYAL, CITY HALL, at 9 P.M. precisely:—

WEDNESDAY, 30TH JANUARY.

THURSDAY, 31ST JANUARY.

FRIDAY, 1ST FEBRUARY.

SATURDAY, 2ND FEBRUARY.

SUNDAY, 3RD FEBRUARY.

SEATS can be booked at MESSRS. LAKE, CRAWFORD & Co.'s on and after SATURDAY, the 26th January, at 10 A.M.

Hongkong, 12th January, 1895. [93]

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

ORDERS FOR THE WEEK ENDING 19TH JANUARY, 1895.

FIELD BATTERY.

No. 11.—For Duty—Lieut. DENSON and Sergeant Major DUNCAN.

No. 12.—DRILL—TUESDAY, 5.30 P.M. 66-Pr. and Company, Dress, Serge and Forage Caps.

No. 13.—KOWLOON DOCK DETACHMENT—DRILL MONDAY, 5.15 P.M. Heavy Gun, at KOWLOON BATTERY—Dress, Serge and Forage Caps.

No. 14.—SIGNALLING—TUESDAY, 4.30 P.M.

MACHINE GUN COMPANY.

No. 15.—DRILL—TUESDAY, 5.30 P.M. Gun, Plain Clothes.

GEN. RAL.

No. 16.—The Corps will take part in the forthcoming Mobilisation as under:—

FIELD BATTERY.

THURSDAY.—Parade at Headquarters at 6 P.M. and proceed to man Guns at Stonecutters' South Shore Battery.

KOWLOON DOCK DETACHMENT.—Parade at Dock at 6.15 P.M. and proceed to Kowloon West Battery to assist in manning that Battery. Dress Serge, Forage Caps, Haversacks, Water Bottles, Loose Great Coats, Cartridges and Side Arms.

SATURDAY.—Parade at Headquarters at 1 P.M. for 5-Pr. practice (position will be notified later). Kowloon Dock Detachment to attend. Dress: Serge, Haversacks, Plain Haversacks, and Water Bottles and Side Arms.

SIGNALERS and TRUMPETER to attend. Dress Serge, Haversacks, Plain Haversacks, and Water Bottles and Side Arms.

MACHINE GUN COMPANY.

THURSDAY, 2 P.M.—For Gun Practice at Deep Water Bay.

SATURDAY, 5 P.M.—Field Firing (position will be notified later).

Dress for both Parades: Khaki Drill, Haversacks, Side Arms and Water Bottles, Gallies, Side Arms and Stung Carbine, Rolled Caps.

A.B.—The Commandant desires that all Members will be able to attend these important Parades.

No. 19.—AMULANCE—MONDAY, at 1.30 P.M.—(Members wishing to take the ST. JOHN'S AMBULANCE CERTIFICATE should attend this Parade, the last before Examination.)

WEDNESDAY, at 9 P.M., ST. JOHN'S AMBULANCE EXAMINATION.

By Order,

L. A. C. GORDON, Capt. R.A.

Hongkong Volunteer Corps.

Hongkong, 12th January, 1895. [96]

Intimations.

OF UNDOUBTED MERIT.

TRY IT!

CHAMPAGNE BITTERS.

TO BE HAD AT ALL CLUBS AND HOTEL BARS,

OR FROM

WATKINS & CO.,

THE APOTHECARIES' HALL.

66, Queen's Road Central. [51]

SPECIAL MAKERS OF ARTICLES FOR LADIES' COMPLEXION

JAVA POWDER

SOLD EVERYWHERE

LARGE ASSORTMENT OF PERFUMERY PUT UP IN THE LATEST PARISIAN STYLE

ADHERE A LA PEAL

12 & 14, Boul. St. Martin

PARIS

ROUGES & BLANCS

BLANC DE PERLES

LIQUID

Hotels.

BAY VIEW HOTEL.

THE "RAMSGATE" OF HONGKONG, (On Shaw-ki-wan Road.)

THE POPULAR SUMMER RESORT, and TERMINUS of the only pleasant DRIVE to be had on the Island. "BAY VIEW" occupies the best situation on the Shaw-ki-wan Road, commands an excellent view of the Harbour, and is always open to the cool breezes from the Southward. Steam-launches can at any time come alongside the jetty adjoining the spacious lawn.

To the other attractions of this popular resort BATHING PAVILIONS

have been added, and a LAUNCH runs from the NEW PADDERS' WHARF to BAY VIEW every half-hour after 5 P.M. daily.

Private Dinners or Trifles prepared in First-class style on the shortest notice, and Meals can be served at all hours.

Hongkong, 13th August, 1894. [19]

THE ROYAL STAG HOTEL.

(LATE THE STAG HOTEL.)

—Established in 1867—

Nos. 148/150, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

THIS POPULAR HOTEL has recently been thoroughly renovated and, under new and experienced Management, offers Accommodation at most reasonable rates to BOARDERS and VISITORS, unsurpassed in the Colony.

The BED-ROOMS are Commodious and Comfortably FURNISHED, with HOT, COLD and SHOWER BATHS, and in addition to a WELL APPOINTED

BAR, with GRILL-ROOM attached, there are DINING, BILLIARD and SMOKING ROOMS, with every convenience.

The CUISINE is in able and experienced hands, and only the best brands of WINES, SPIRITS and MALT LIQUORS are kept.

For terms, &c., apply to

THE MANAGER, Royal Stag Hotel.

Hongkong, 3rd November, 1894. [38]

PEAK HOTEL.

OPEN ALL THE YEAR ROUND.

THIS commodious and well appointed HOTEL, situated at a height of 1,250 feet above sea-level, has just been thoroughly re-decorated, re-furnished, and re-furnished, and a NEW WING has been built, which commands magnificent Views of the Harbour and mainland of China.

SPECIAL WINTER RATES, (FROM NOVEMBER 1ST TO MARCH 31ST).

One person, per day.....\$2.50 to \$ 3.00

One person, per month.....\$65 to 60.00

Married couple (occupying one room) per day.....5.00

Married couple (occupying one room) per month.....\$100 to 105.00

Married couple (occupying two rooms) per month.....\$110 to 120.00

Extra Bed-room, per month.....20.00

For further particulars, apply to

